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HOUSE BILL 1251 By
McAfee

SENATE BILL 1674
By Gilbert

AN ACT to add certain areas to the enumeration of state natural areas and to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 11-14-108.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

Section 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 11-14-108(b)(1), is amended by adding the following as appropriately designated subsections:

() GHOST RIVER (section of the Wolf River). An area of approximately 2000 acres located in Fayette County that supports high quality bottomland hardwood forest and forested wetland communities occurring along scenic meanders of the Wolf River. The Bald Cypress-Tupelo Forest Community is a dominant natural feature established along river, swamp, and lake habitats and is representative of unaltered pristine river systems.

() DEVIL'S BACKBONE. A forest of approximately 1,300 acres with a high diversity of upland community types representative of the western Highland Rim. It is located in Lewis County off the Natchez Trace Parkway. Its prominent topographic features are numerous dry rocky ridges with moderate to steep slopes which form hollows with several perennial streams.

Section 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 11-14-108(b)(2), is amended by adding the following as appropriately designated subsections:

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() WILLIAM L. DAVENPORT REFUGE. An area of approximately 120 acres in Polk County that includes a southern Appalachian bog community. This plant community is considered globally rare. It is characterized by an open canopy and is covered by a mat of large cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) interspersed with tawny cotton-grass (*Eriophorum virginicum*), and alder (*Alder serrulata*) at the bog's edge.

() TWIN FALLS HOLLOW. This site of approximately 80 acres in Lewis County includes a globally significant calcareous seep community with dominant species of sedges and rushes, along with large leaved grass-of-parnassu (*Parnassia grandifolia*) and the endangered Tennessee yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris tennesseensis*). This is the best known population of Tennessee yellow-eyed grass.

() WALKER BRANCH DRAGONFLY AND DAMSELFLY PRESERVE. This is approximately 225 acres in Hardin County near the Tennessee River. This site has forested wetland communities including Tupelo gum (*Nyssa aquatica*) and Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichium*) with surrounding floodplain and upland forest community types. There are upland seeps, which combined with these many other forest communities, provide unique habitat for more than 37 species of dragonflies and damselflies.

() LITTLE CEDAR MOUNTAIN. This is a site of approximately 244 acres located in the Tennessee River Gorge in Marion County. It supports a diversity of excellent examples of forest communities and rare species. This includes a pristine Mixed Mesophytic Forest Community and calciphilic natural communities unique to the Cumberland Plateau that are similar to communities in the Central Basin. Examples of state listed species that occur here include ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), yellow honeysuckle (*Lonicera flava*), and the green anole lizard (*Anolis carolinensis*).

Section 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 11-14-108(b)(2)(W) is amended by deleting the language, "An area of approximately three hundred fifty acres located within Prentice Cooper State Forest in Marion County."and substituting instead the language, "An area

of approximately 490 acres located within Prentice Cooper State Forest and along Kelly's Ferry Slope, in the Tennessee River Gorge, in Marion County."

Section 4. This Act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.